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THE RUMANIAN ARMY

According to the last census, that of January 1948, the population of Rumania is 15,870,000. The number of males between 15 and 47 years of age is 3,600,000, or 46.5 percent of that age group. The contingent of men which would theoretically serve in the Army (active, complementary, reserve, and militia) forms 14 percent of the total population.

The annual draft is approximately 114,000 men, of whom 20 percent are unfit or exempt, 10 percent are used immediately for special industrial service, and another 10 percent, considered "doubtful or unadaptable," are assigned to forced labor brigades.

Thus for all practical purposes, only about 68,000 men enter the military arm. The length of military service, recently raised from 2 to 3 years, keeps more than 200,000 men in uniform at one time. In addition approximately 120,000 are enrolled in the forces of the Ministry of Interior.

The forces of the Rumanian People's Republic are divided into 7 infantry divisions, 2 mountain divisions, 2 cavalry divisions, 1 armored division, and 1 artillery division, 1 naval division, and an air corps. In addition, there are approximately 80,000 Soviet troops on maneuvers distributed throughout Moldavia, Muntenia, and Oltenia, as well as the Banat.

The equipment and armament of the Rumanian army, with respect to artillery, tanks, armored units, and airplanes, is mediocre. Units have up to 55 percent of full equipment. On the other hand, light weapons, automatic weapons, and mortars are up to 90 percent of the table of organization.

Rumania does not manufacture tanks or cannon of heavy or medium caliber. The USSR supplies this material. However, it manufactures light weapons, machine guns, and mine throwers of small and large caliber, as well as light vehicles.

The engineering, transportation, and administrative services have only horse-drawn units. Only when they are integrated into army corps and divisions do they have motorized units.

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The budget for the army was 26,213,000,000 lei in 1948; 37,808,000,000 in 1949; and 52,400,000,000 in 1950. In 1951, it rose to 67,800,000,000 doubling in 4 years. Actually, however, military expenses are much higher than this.

The armed forces of the Ministry of the Interior have a special budget which exceeds that of the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

In resume, the aforementioned figures, according to official government data, show that the budget for the Rumanian armed forces is increasing constantly and that an enormous effort is being made to set up a people's army of the highest possible potential.

The following points must also be taken into consideration in regard to morale.

1. All the Sovietized armies were submitted during 7 years of military occupation to an extremely intense process of purging and political education.
2. The incessant turnover of the higher officers, together with an ever more rigorous inspection and control, education and vigilance, carried out by elements from the Soviet Army itself, has seriously corrupted the spirit of the soldiers.
3. The generous treatment of military personnel, especially noncommissioned officers, in regard to pay and leave, has helped to assure their active support of the regime of terror.
4. The substantial food assured the troops, their good equipment, the relatively easy barracks life, and the diversions have no other purpose than convincing the regimented youths, 90 percent of whom are of peasant origin, of the benefits of the Communist regime. Nor should one forget the alcohol and tobacco supplied regularly and sometimes too abundantly.

However, the principal fact which should be remembered is that in case of war the troops of the Rumanian People's Republic will never fight on their own, as homogeneous national units, because the incorporation of elements of the Rumanian People's Army into Soviet units has already been planned.

These elements, as well as those of the other Satellite armies, will constitute purely and simple battalions of automatons integrated into the divisions of the Soviet Army. With no individuality of their own, deprived of their native leaders, these units will be forced to fight side by side with those of the Soviet Army wherever operations require it.

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